

**Chief Executives Board
for Coordination**

28 May 2015

English only

**Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes at its
twenty-ninth session**

(ILO headquarters, Geneva, 11 and 12 March 2015)

Summary

In response to a call by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for the High-level Committee on Programmes to serve as a think tank for supporting CEB deliberations, the Committee focused its work on a limited number of strategic issues of system-wide concern and engaged in substantive discussions on the topics set out below. In particular, it considered in depth the practical applications of the key elements of the post-2015 development agenda and how the United Nations system could concretely further enhance its capacity to support Member States in the transition to and implementation of the future sustainable development framework.

Urbanization and sustainable development

The working group of the Committee on a new United Nations urban agenda, under the leadership of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, advanced the preparation of a coherent input by the United Nations system to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito in October 2016.

The Committee approved the proposed way forward for the work of the working group, including the preparation of a CEB statement at Habitat III. The Committee requested the working group to deepen its work on multi-stakeholder issue-based partnerships on the new urban agenda and to develop further the paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a UN system input to a new urban agenda". An active discussion was held on the substance of the evolving paper and the working group was invited to analyse lessons from various urbanization experiences, with a view to developing a shared vision for sustainable urbanization. The Committee agreed to revert to the item at its thirtieth session, with a report on progress.



Youth employment

Under the leadership of the International Labour Organization, the Committee agreed to establish a time-bound task team on youth employment with the objective of launching a global initiative on decent jobs for youth. A key feature of the initiative would be a broad issue-based multi-stakeholder partnership aimed at focusing high-level attention and action on the issue of youth employment. The Committee approved the terms of reference of the task team for endorsement by CEB at its first regular session of 2015 and provided substantive guidance on the proposed elements of the initiative.

Inequality, human rights and the post-2015 development agenda

Inequality is a central element of the post-2015 development agenda and an issue of great concern to the entire United Nations system. The Committee acknowledged that pursuing a new approach focused on reducing inequality would have profound implications for the development work of the system. The Committee requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to lead the effort to develop, over the course of 2015, a positioning paper that would articulate a system-wide framework to guide the work of the organizations of the United Nations system relating to inequality in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, taking appropriately into account the various tensions and sensitivities covered during the discussion. To contribute to that effort, members of the Committee were invited to provide OHCHR with their perspectives, approaches and expectations. The Committee further requested the working group on the new urban agenda and the task team on youth employment to address inequality as an integral part of their respective efforts to pilot the key elements of the post-2015 agenda.

Data revolution

In reviewing the draft internal programme of work prepared by a core group of organizations designated by CEB, the Committee emphasized that the data revolution was integral to the transformative nature of the post-2015 development agenda. The Committee generally expressed support for the proposed initiatives, while noting the importance of close coordination with other existing activities and intergovernmental discussions. The Committee agreed that the group should proceed to develop the document further, along with input from the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group, for consideration by CEB at its first regular session of 2015.

Next session

The thirtieth session of the Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 and 13 October 2015.

I. Introduction

1. The High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its twenty-ninth session at the headquarters of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, on 11 and 12 March 2015. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are provided in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present report.

2. The Deputy Director General of ILO, Gilbert Hounbo, welcomed the Committee to ILO headquarters. He noted that the twenty-ninth session of the Committee was being held at a critical juncture, when the international community was assessing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and deliberating on the future sustainable development framework. A major challenge was to reposition the United Nations system to support Member States effectively in the implementation of the new agenda. ILO was engaged in its own process of reform in order to adjust to the changing world of the twenty-first century. He further noted that adjustments in the areas of management, programming and operations were needed to make the United Nations system ready for the new development framework. In that context, he noted that the Committee had an important role in supporting CEB by promoting policy coherence, programmatic coordination and innovation.

3. The Chair expressed thanks to Mr. Hounbo, on behalf of the Committee, for his statement and for generously hosting the session. He continued by noting that CEB, at its second session of 2014, had endorsed the role of the Committee as a think tank for supporting the deliberations of the Board and the recommendation to focus the work of the Committee on a limited number of strategic issues and emerging global challenges faced by the United Nations system. The agenda of the session, which focused on four strategic themes, reflected that new direction for the Committee.

4. He said that the joint session of the High-level Committee on Management and the Committee, held in October 2014, had provided a strong impetus for the Committee to assume a leadership role in exploring the practical applications of fit-for-purpose considerations vis-à-vis the forthcoming post-2015 development agenda. The agenda of the Committee, with its four interlinked items, had clearly responded to that by addressing the key elements of the post-2015 development agenda, which the Committee had been tasked by CEB to examine closely, namely universality, integration, human rights and inequality, and the data revolution. CEB had supported the proposal of the Committee that it focus on the issues of sustainable urbanization and youth employment as present-day global challenges, within which the Committee could pursue in-depth deliberations on the future role of the United Nations system and its capacity to support Member States effectively, mobilizing and deploying its collective capacity more deliberately and with more agility, including by fostering issue-based coalitions and partnerships. He urged the Committee, in its deliberations, to look across and integrate the different aspects of the United Nations pillars: peace and security, development and human rights. He requested the members to reach out actively to their counterparts in the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group in order to align and bring the streams of work together.

II. Agenda item 1: urbanization and sustainable development

5. Opening the issue of urbanization and sustainable development, the Chair recalled that, at its twenty-seventh session, in March 2014, the Committee had established, under the leadership of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), an ad hoc time-bound working group on a new United Nations urban agenda, to prepare a coherent input by the United Nations system to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The working group had been tasked with developing a paper on urbanization and sustainable development, for endorsement by CEB before the holding of Habitat III.

6. He said that, at its twenty-eighth session, in October 2014, the Committee had requested the working group to use that initiative as a prototype to showcase the practical application of fit-for-purpose efforts by the United Nations system, in particular the forging of multi-stakeholder issue-based coalitions and partnerships, within the context of the larger discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee had before it a note prepared by the working group on the way forward for its work and a proposal for fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of sustainable urbanization. He invited the Committee to review those proposals and provide guidance to the working group on how best to advance its work.

7. Introducing the note entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a UN system input to a new urban agenda", the Principal Adviser on Policy and Strategic Planning of the Office of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, explained that it contained three sections: a proposed way forward for the work of the group, including a recommendation on the purpose and title of the paper, a revised timeline and a proposal for a CEB statement to Habitat III; a proposal for multi-stakeholder issue-based partnerships on the new urban agenda; and a revised paper on urbanization and sustainable development, reflecting comments made at and since the twenty-eighth session of the Committee.

8. Regarding the multi-stakeholder partnerships, he pointed out that the proposed initiative was intended to link a United Nations system-wide approach on urbanization and sustainable development with the specific implementation of the new urban agenda through multi-stakeholder engagement. To that end, the working group planned to assess existing partnerships and identify and engage with new partners in the development of a United Nations system multi-stakeholder approach. A draft strategy on multi-stakeholder partnerships on the new urban agenda would be prepared for consideration by the Committee at its thirtieth session, with a view to preparing for its launch at Habitat III, in October 2016.

9. In the ensuing discussion, the Committee expressed support for the approach proposed by the working group. In particular, it agreed with the proposed way forward, including the revised timeline, bearing in mind that some dates of meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III might be subject to change. The working group was encouraged to consider adding to the timeline country-level case studies to further assess and inform the proposed approach, with one member proposing Palestinian urban refugee experiences for such a purpose. The title of the paper was confirmed as reading "Urbanization and sustainable development: a UN system input to a new urban agenda". While expressing support for the proposed

purpose of the paper, the Committee was of the view that the paper could be further sharpened in line with its comments.

10. The Committee also agreed with the recommendation of the working group that CEB issue a statement on urbanization and sustainable development at Habitat III. In that context, the Committee emphasized that the statement needed to strike the right tone, focus on joint actions and commitments with impact and emphasize an approach to urbanization centred on people and based on science and human rights. Building on the content of the paper on urbanization and sustainable development, the statement should reflect an integrated approach to the topic. It also needed to take into account issues such as disaster risk reduction, climate change and the rural-urban nexus.

11. The members of the Committee welcomed the proposal for multi-stakeholder issue-based partnerships on a new urban agenda. The Committee stressed that the partnerships needed to be inclusive, specific and add value for broader efforts towards sustainable urbanization. In particular, they needed to focus on those areas in which the multilateral system in general, and the United Nations system in particular, had been able to demonstrate impact and results. The challenge was to go beyond an intellectual approach, focusing on an ideal partnership and to turn a partnership strategy into a concrete initiative. It was proposed that partnership initiatives should be identified that could be profiled, with achievements and lessons presented at Habitat III. In that context, it was suggested that the working group should reach out to United Nations country teams to profile current multi-stakeholder partnerships on the ground in which organizations of the United Nations system played a role.

12. Noting that much could be learned from existing partnerships and experiences, the Committee encouraged the working group to take into account continuing partnerships, including the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The working group was also invited to examine subnational partnerships and joint financing mechanisms when assessing existing partnerships. At the global level, the Economic and Social Council partnership forum could serve as an intergovernmental sounding board once the paper had been finalized. It was noted that partnerships were also discussed within the context of the process of financing for development. At the regional level, it was suggested that the working group should reflect on ways to link up with regional preparatory processes for Habitat III to ensure that its work benefited from regional perspectives and research. Members also highlighted potential difficulties in managing the expectations of external partners and the importance of agreeing upon rules of engagement at the outset.

13. In relation to the paper on urbanization and sustainable development, active debates ensued as to whether there was indeed a model for sustainable urbanization. Some members stressed that the United Nations needed to uphold and advocate universal norms, principles and values and the standards of the key functions and services that cities should provide, including energy efficiency and accessibility, resilience, protection against floods and earthquakes, waste management, housing, transport, jobs, education and health services. Others were of the view that the paper should avoid being overly prescriptive, arguing that there was no single optimal, universal urbanization model, but a multitude of diverse pathways leading to sustainable towns in rural and urban areas. Furthermore, it was noted that the trend

towards urbanization might not necessarily be inevitable or even desirable in all circumstances and that sustainable development encompassed rural and urban areas. Having exchanged views, the Committee said that the paper should focus on analysing and presenting important lessons learned that could be gleaned from the multitude of urbanization pathways chosen by a variety of actors. Through an analysis of those pathways and the lessons learned, the paper should derive a shared vision of sustainable urbanization that could inform countries in developing sustainable urbanization strategies.

14. Members pointed to additional issues that needed to be addressed in the paper. They included children and youth; shrinking cities; health, including HIV/AIDS; displacement and marginalization, with particular attention paid to vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, sex workers and people using drugs; governance, efforts to combat corruption and safe cities; the role of culture and technology, including information and communications technology; rural-urban migration and mobility; climate change; risk management; resource flows; and consumption patterns and options for low-carbon growth. The World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in 2016, was noted as an intergovernmental meeting of relevance to the initiative of the Committee on sustainable urbanization. Members also stressed the need for coherence with other United Nations inter-agency workstreams, in order to bring the pieces together, including the Habitat III task team and the Programme Working Group of the United Nations Development Group.

15. In conclusion, the Chair encouraged the working group to develop the paper further, especially from the perspective of the role of multilateral institutions in supporting sustainable urbanization. In so doing, the paper should focus to a greater extent on lessons learned, innovative approaches and best practices by applying evidence-based analysis. By extracting and amplifying best practices, the paper would serve as a helpful tool to come to a shared understanding and vision on an "urban future we want" and on the optimal added value of the United Nations system regarding the issue of urbanization.

Conclusion

16. The Committee approved the proposed way forward for the work of the working group, including the title and purpose of the paper on a United Nations system input to a new urban agenda, the revised timeline and the preparation of a CEB statement on urbanization and sustainable development as an input to Habitat III. The Committee requested the working group, under the leadership of UN-Habitat, to deepen its work on multi-stakeholder issue-based partnerships on the new urban agenda and to develop the paper further in the light of the discussions. The Committee agreed to revert to the item at its thirtieth session, with a report on progress.

III. Agenda item 2: inequality, human rights and the post-2015 development agenda

17. It was recalled that, at its twenty-third session, the Committee had taken note of the overwhelming support for the inclusion of human rights issues in its agenda and agreed to include human rights policy coherence as a regular agenda item

(CEB/2012/4, para. 56). It was also recalled that, at a retreat following its twenty-fourth session, the Committee had agreed to focus on, among other things, inequality as an emerging policy and programmatic issue of concern to the entire United Nations system. Equality had been highlighted as a thread that should be woven into the consideration of any issue chosen for further work (CEB/2012/6, para. 73). At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee had reiterated that it needed to reflect in greater detail on the five core elements of the post-2015 agenda identified by CEB, namely universality; inequality, including by applying a gender and an intergenerational perspective; human rights; the data revolution, including the development of a digital agenda for the United Nations system; and accountability (see CEB/2014/6, para. 8), and had highlighted, in particular, universality and inequality as critical issues in need of further reflection on their practical implications.

18. Against that backdrop, the Chair brought to the attention of the Committee a discussion note prepared by OHCHR, exploring the concept of equality as a central element of the post-2015 development agenda and as a driver for greater mainstreaming of human rights in sustainable development. The paper also highlighted the practical implications of a human rights-based approach to addressing inequality in the post-2015 development agenda and proposed specific recommendations to promote the systematic integration of equality concerns into the policies, programming and practices of the organizations of the United Nations system. Acknowledging the central importance of equality as a consideration cutting across the post-2015 development agenda, the Chair invited the Committee to examine the discussion paper critically and analyse the underlying assumptions of that nexus.

19. Observing their relevance to the other agenda items, the Chair also called upon the Committee to examine how considerations of inequality could be integrated more strongly into its work. Specifically, he proposed that both the working group on the new urban agenda and the task team on youth employment could be asked to address the issue of inequality in their continuing work to pilot the key elements of the post-2015 development agenda.

20. Introducing the discussion paper, the Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch of OHCHR, Craig Mokhiber, cited inequality as a defining concern of the time, a subject that had been highly visible in deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. Over the past decade, inequality had been exacerbated both globally and within countries; that lesson had led to inequality becoming a principle focus throughout the sustainable development goals. He observed that the strong focus on inequality posed challenges for the United Nations system with regard to its fitness for purpose, given that that would require a new and different approach to its development work.

21. He, together with Sally-Anne Way, also of OHCHR, discussed the concept of inequality in broad terms, going beyond income inequality. To support a shared understanding, they introduced the terms “non-discrimination”,¹ “equality”² and “equity”³ and described three types of inequality — vertical (between individuals),

¹ Defined as “the prohibition of distinctions between people that are based on impermissible grounds that have the purpose or effect of impairing the enjoyment of rights”.

² Defined as “substantive equality of both opportunity and outcomes for all”.

³ Defined as “fairness in the distribution of benefits and opportunities”.

horizontal (between social groups) and between countries. The Committee was reminded that United Nations norms and standards mandated a focus on addressing inequality and discrimination and that Member States had a normative responsibility and affirmative obligation to promote equality in their policies. Gross inequalities were not an accident of nature, nor were they inevitable, but rather they were a policy choice.

22. They further stressed that inequality undercut not only economic growth and poverty reduction, but also social cohesion, peace and other dimensions of sustainable development. It was thus central to all three pillars of the work of the United Nations. In that regard, the inclusion of a sustainable development goal aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (see A/68/970, goal 16) was welcome and it would be important to examine its implications for the future efforts of the United Nations system, including through the lens of inequality.

23. The Committee was reminded that, in the post-2015 era, no development goal would be deemed fulfilled unless it was met for all and that that would require the United Nations system to pay explicit attention to horizontal social groups and the aspects of all goals and targets that reduced inequality. To that end, the representatives underscored the importance of a broader disaggregation of data and the need to develop a methodology to monitor progress towards the reduction of all three types of inequality. They proposed that, as an outcome of the discussion, a system-wide paper could be produced, providing practical guidance on addressing inequality and reflecting the expertise and perspectives of the entities of the United Nations system.

24. The Committee was unanimous in welcoming that timely initiative, praising the paper as comprehensive, thought-provoking and helpful in building a system-wide common understanding. Members expressed particular appreciation for the fact that the paper integrated various aspects of the work of the United Nations and was mindful of the complexity and sensitivities inherent in the subject. The Committee said that the United Nations system had before it an opportunity to pursue a new bold approach, noting that, to remain relevant in the post-2015 era, promoting equality must be a defining principle of its work. There was broad agreement that the paradigm shift to a focus on reducing inequality in the post-2015 development agenda would have strong implications for the United Nations system.

25. The Committee acknowledged that in recent years great strides had been made in integrating human rights into the work of the United Nations system. The Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative was noted as a positive example of the system moving from principle to practice. During the discussion, members raised various manifestations of inequality, such as slum proliferation, spatial segregation (of refugees) and the digital divide, noting that those were symptoms of inequality and stressing that it was necessary to address their root causes. Intergenerational equity was emphasized as a central dimension that should be reflected in the paper. It was further observed that the sustainable development goals and targets were not a replacement for the human rights conventions or vice versa, but rather that they complemented one another.

26. Various challenges to taking an approach to development focused on reducing inequality were identified during the discussion, including the tension between

principle and practice and the need to look at the politically sensitive structural issues underlying inequality. Members cited difficulties facing the United Nations system in promoting equality in the current development paradigm, observing that sovereign countries made their own policy decisions that affected inequality for better or worse and that the role of the United Nations system tended to be limited to the production and analysis of evidence and advocacy. On that issue, the representatives of OHCHR reiterated that the United Nations system must be true to its norms and standards and assist Member States in fulfilling the obligations into which they had voluntarily entered.

27. Some members particularly highlighted the tension between equality of opportunities versus that of outcomes. Noting the contradiction whereby human rights might be violated in the process of enforcing equality of outcome, a question was posed as to how much inequality could be considered tolerable in a society. Others pointed out the complexity and risk in linking inalienable human rights with a time-bound set of goals that had been negotiated at the intergovernmental level. It was stressed that those and other fundamental tensions needed to be duly captured and brought to the attention of CEB and examined in the course of the further work of the Committee on the subject.

28. Considering inequality in the context of the post-2015 agenda, the Committee highlighted its connection with the concept of universality, given that inequality was a concern confronting all countries. The need for differentiated modes of engagement with different categories of countries was pointed out as part of the challenge facing the United Nations system in promoting equality as part of a universal agenda. Members also observed that another important new feature of the post-2015 development agenda was a proposed sustainable development goal relating to justice and rule of law, which would bring visibility to those previously neglected aspects of sustainable development and enable a clear connection across the three pillars of the work of the United Nations. Linking inequality to such concerns as an increase in crimes and, more broadly, to the undercutting of peace, the importance of examining the system-wide implications of that new opportunity was noted.

29. References to data and the monitoring of inequality permeated the discussion, given their criticality to ensuring that no one was left behind, a defining characteristic of the universal agenda. It was agreed that every United Nations entity had a role in measuring and documenting inequality in its area of work and the importance of moving away from averages and towards disaggregation was recognized as necessary to inform and support targeted, evidence-based policy formulation, programming and action. Members of the Committee stressed that the United Nations had a duty to document and expose inequality in all areas and advocate against it.

30. Measuring inequality was considered challenging, given an absence of agreed international indicators; however, that presented an opportunity for the Committee to help to develop some recommendations on a manageable set of measures. Citing examples from the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, the representatives of OHCHR invited agencies to provide information on existing methodologies that could be used to track inequality in the post-2015 context. Specific suggestions were made for the development of an inequality marker, building on experience of the gender marker, and for

mainstreaming the collection of disaggregated data in the surveys supported by United Nations organizations, to enable monitoring of the progressive reduction of inequality over time. In some interventions, the difficulties associated with disaggregated data were pointed out and mitigation measures to be taken up front called for.

31. Responding to the request from OHCHR to harvest expertise, several agencies highlighted their activities relevant to inequality, such as zero discrimination in the response to HIV/AIDS; the promotion of universal coverage to help to reduce health inequality; efforts to bridge the digital divide; the City Prosperity Index that included an equity dimension; and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

32. The Committee expressed strong support for the proposal to develop the discussion paper into a concise, practical and action-oriented system-wide framework, and a number of members offered suggestions to that end. Recognizing the complexity of the subject, several stressed the need to further elaborate on, and precisely distinguish between, the various human rights concepts and to make clearer links with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some said that the paper should more strongly affirm the centrality of equality considerations in the post-2015 development agenda and that the reference to the protection of the vulnerable in fragile States should be strengthened, given that crises could exacerbate inequality. A suggestion was also made to elaborate further on the role of the United Nations system in supporting Member States in reducing inequality and providing examples of best practices that they could consider replicating. It was also proposed that addressing inequality should be mainstreamed into the human rights programming principles of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

33. Other specific issues suggested for incorporation included child rights principles; measurements of inequality based on deprivation; the responsibilities of the private sector with regard to the privatization of social services; the incentive perspective of human rights (i.e. the right to development), in particular in relation to health and education; legal policy and its relationship to inequality; the relationship between inequality, job creation and wages; and fair and equitable access to, and control over, natural resources and intergenerational equity; and access to environmental justice and the rule of law.

34. In concluding the discussion, the Chair recognized the overwhelming support of the Committee for the initiative and the significant buy-in for taking the discussion paper forward to produce a system-wide framework. He requested OHCHR to take the lead in developing a positioning paper for the Committee over the course of 2015 that would articulate the approach of the United Nations system to inequality and human rights in the context of the new development agenda and serve as a guiding framework to examine and orient the work of United Nations entities in that area, referring to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women as an aspirational model. As stressed by members during the discussions, the paper should be precise in defining terminology and concepts, capture tensions and sensitivities and be pragmatic and action-focused. While the work would continue over the course of 2015, the Chair requested OHCHR to produce the positioning paper for review by the Committee at its thirtieth session and by CEB at its second regular session of 2015. To contribute

to that effort, the Chair invited each member to submit to OHCHR a short note on how his or her organization defined and approached the issues of inequality and discrimination, and what he or she wished to see included in a system-wide approach to addressing inequality in the post-2015 context.

Conclusion

35. The Committee requested OHCHR to lead the system-wide effort to develop, over the course of 2015, a positioning paper that would articulate a system-wide framework to guide the work of the organizations of the United Nations system relating to inequality in the context of the post-2015 agenda. To contribute to that effort, the Committee invited each member to provide OHCHR with a note outlining the perspectives, approaches and expectations of their respective organizations. The Committee requested the working group on the new urban agenda and the task team on youth employment to address inequality as an integral part of their respective efforts to pilot the key elements of the post-2015 agenda.

IV. Agenda item 3: data revolution

36. The Chair opened the discussion on the data revolution by noting that data were a key component of the activities of United Nations system organizations and that the system had an important role to play in supporting a data revolution for sustainable development. Recalling that CEB, at its second regular session of 2014, had called upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to lead the preparation of a programme of work that responded to the call for a data revolution, he expressed thanks to the organizations involved for providing a pragmatic but ambitious vision on how to move forward. He noted that the same documents that were before the Committee had been submitted to the High-level Committee on Management for its review and had also been shared with the Development Operations Coordination Office.

37. In introducing the item, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Thomas Gass, recalled that the report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, entitled "A world that counts: mobilising the data revolution for sustainable development", had already laid the groundwork for a debate on the data revolution. It included a comprehensive list of actions to be taken by a broad range of stakeholders to foster a revolution in data. In addition, it clearly described some of the contradictions inherent in the data world where, for example, an overwhelming amount of data could coexist with the reality that national statistical programmes lacked sufficient capacity to provide the data that were necessary to understand fundamental facts about their environment.

38. Turning to the proposed draft internal programme of work for the data revolution, he noted that the working group had faced challenges while preparing the document that had been requested. First, the data revolution concept had not yet been fully discussed within intergovernmental forums and the Statistical

Commission had met only in the first week of March in New York. Second, the data revolution was very closely linked to the continuing intergovernmental deliberations on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. Lastly, the rapid pace of change within the data field would require the United Nations system to address the issue on a continuing basis.

39. He continued by presenting the four initiatives contained in the draft programme of work. The first initiative, the "United Nations system data innovation lab", sought to expand the capacity of the system to drive innovation. It would aim to strengthen the collective experience of the system to use new and emerging data sources, building on the work of the Global Pulse initiative. The second initiative, "Data visualization and dashboard", looked to enhance the role of the United Nations system in data dissemination, exchange and communication by building on the many existing activities in that area. The third initiative, a world forum on sustainable development data, would build new and fortify existing partnerships, using the unique convening role of the United Nations as a catalyst and provide a space for sharing ideas and experiences for data improvement, advocacy for innovation and technology transfer. The fourth initiative was an effort to bring together existing data assets by building a United Nations system data catalogue in order to make those data more accessible.

40. He then provided a briefing to the Committee on the outcomes of the work of the Statistical Commission, which had recently concluded its annual session and had been attended by a record number of statisticians. He noted that the debate within the Commission had focused on the post-2015 development agenda, in particular the development of indicators to measure the achievement of the future sustainable development goals. The Commission had confirmed that the development of the indicator framework was the prerogative of Member States, through their national statistical offices, with the statistical entities of the United Nations playing an important supporting role. That approach would ensure the technical solidity of the indicators, including their credibility and acceptability, their sustainability and their consistency over the 15-year time frame. In line with that approach, the Commission had decided to establish an inter-agency expert group, consisting of three to four country representatives from the five regions, to work on the indicator framework. That mechanism would provide strategic oversight for the implementation of adequate information systems in support of the post-2015 development agenda. The Commission had also taken note of the report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, recommended new investment in national statistical capacity and recognized that a world forum on sustainable development data would be a suitable platform for intensified cooperation with other stakeholders.

41. Concluding his introduction, he noted that the working group had also prepared a survey that would give agencies an opportunity to describe existing activities as they related to the some 20 recommendations that formed the heart of the report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group.

42. The Chair invited the members of the Committee to share their views, especially on how to move forward with the four specific initiatives included in the draft programme of work.

43. Noting the importance and timeliness of the topic, the members expressed appreciation for the draft programme of work, congratulating the working group on

creating an operational plan in a brief period. The members who were not part of the core group indicated that they looked forward to actively contributing as the work moved forward. Many members noted the increasingly important role of monitoring progress within the context of the post-2015 agenda and agreed with the assessment that access to reliable and timely data formed the foundation of monitoring activities.

44. The four initiatives received broad support from the Committee, with several members indicating that they were closely linked to existing data-related activities. The need for better data to support evidence-based programming was recognized. Stressing the need for data literacy within the United Nations, the Committee considered the initiative to strengthen the capacity of the system to drive data innovation to be highly relevant and welcomed the possibility of including new innovations in data collection and the incorporation of non-traditional sources. Some members also stressed the need to adhere to the fundamental principles of official statistics that had been approved by the General Assembly and to find ways to extend them to new data sources. Many members of the Committee voiced support for the leadership role of the Global Pulse initiative in the proposed data innovation lab, with several organizations noting their existing partnerships with it.

45. The proposed world forum on sustainable development data, intended to create and strengthen partnerships for coordination and capacity-building in data-driven sustainable development, also received support from the members and was seen by many as a unique opportunity to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders. Some, however, stressed that that activity needed to be closely coordinated with the plans of Member States, in particular the work of the Statistical Commission, and therefore sought clarity regarding the role of the United Nations.

46. The fourth initiative, a United Nations system data catalogue, aimed at promoting greater use of existing data assets within the United Nations system and by the public, was also well received by the Committee.

47. Members stressed that the proposed initiatives should not be considered in isolation and underscored the importance of ensuring linkages between the initiatives whenever possible, as well as between the initiatives and existing activities. During the discussion, many members described existing data collection and analysis activities within their institutions, suggesting that, as the programme of work developed, it should seek to integrate existing activities rather than create new ones. UNEP Live, for example, was already a highly developed data visualization tool, which was flexible for sharing and exchanging data and available to all to contribute to and use as a public good. Furthermore, several members noted the importance of including a broader range of data in forthcoming efforts, mentioning in particular humanitarian data.

48. The issue of resource requirements for the initiatives was raised. It was suggested that more details regarding resource requirements would be necessary. Noting that the initiative on the data innovation lab, in particular, mentioned the use of secondments as a mechanism to meet its human resources needs, several members indicated that that might prove difficult to implement.

49. Members also stressed the importance of linking the initiatives in the draft programme of work to the activities of the Committee for the Coordination of

Statistical Activities, a body comprising the chief statisticians of United Nations organizations and representatives of other intergovernmental entities.

50. Going beyond the specific initiatives presented, members noted several other points, including the importance of data quality control and the need for data standards, as well as policies and safeguards that addressed any legal aspects associated with data. Furthermore, the importance of going beyond collecting and managing data and enhancing the capacity to interpret data was underscored, with one member noting the value of a more scientific approach that included scenario modelling. The need to strengthen national statistical capacity was raised by several members. While acknowledging the importance of new data sources, concern was expressed at the state of basic data collection, in particular vital registration, and the view expressed that new initiatives needed to be carefully weighed, especially because there was limited funding.

51. The discussion also highlighted tensions between the role of official statistics and the concept of “big data”, which was characterized as an “avalanche of data from the Internet”, as well as from other sources. It was noted that that type of data would certainly have an impact on the statistics community, which was addressing the issue through various mechanisms, including the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. It was predicted that in the future that kind of non-traditional data would complement traditional statistics, although there were several obstacles to overcome, such as how that type of data would be governed. Such issues as privacy, confidentiality, cost, validation and quality assurance would all need to be addressed.

52. The Chair observed a positive endorsement of the efforts to address the way in which the United Nations system could play a role in supporting a data revolution for sustainable development. He stressed that it was about a revolution of big data in the United Nations — not by the United Nations — and, given that all members of CEB were global custodians of data, the system should focus on how to bring their experience and expertise collectively and effectively to the data revolution in the service of Member States.

53. Summarizing the discussion, he noted that the programme of work presented some interesting initiatives and that the Committee had generally accepted the initiative on the United Nations system data innovation lab, with the Global Pulse initiative as the lead entity, along with the visualization platform and dashboard, led by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the United Nations system data catalogue, led by the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the CEB secretariat. While the Committee had generally expressed support for the proposed world forum on sustainable development data, it had been of the opinion that it needed closer coordination with the activities of Member States through the Statistical Commission. Noting that the objective of the discussion was to provide feedback to the working group for the forthcoming discussion by CEB on the subject, the Chair called for the working group to take into consideration the discussions of the Committee as it revised the document before the CEB session.

Conclusion

54. **The Committee agreed that the working group should proceed to develop further the draft programme of work, in the light of the discussions of the**

Committee, along with inputs from the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group, for consideration by CEB at its first regular session of 2015.

V. Agenda item 4: youth employment

55. The Vice-Chair of the Committee recalled that, at its twenty-eighth session, in October 2014, against the backdrop of earlier work undertaken by the Committee on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth and endorsed by CEB at its first regular session of 2013, the Committee had considered whether the unprecedented employment challenges currently facing young women and men warranted its focused attention among the broader set of youth issues. Seeing the youth employment crisis as a universal challenge to which many organizations of the United Nations system could contribute, the Committee had voiced support for an ILO proposal to establish a time-bound task team on youth employment and requested a core group, led by ILO, to develop terms of reference and a timeline of its work for consideration by the Committee and eventual endorsement by CEB. Furthermore, the Committee had stipulated that the work on youth employment should provide a prototype platform for applying the five key elements of the post-2015 development agenda identified by CEB and supporting fit-for purpose efforts by mobilizing capacity in the United Nations system and operationalizing the establishment of issue-based partnerships.

56. The Vice-Chair drew attention to the draft terms of reference for a time-bound task team to develop a proposal for a joint/global United Nations initiative on decent jobs for youth and to the proposed elements of a draft strategy for the initiative. The documents had been prepared in consultation within the core group, taking into account feedback from the Committee at its twenty-eighth session, and submitted by ILO on behalf of the group.

57. André Bogui of ILO delivered some introductory remarks, setting the scene for the discussion. He presented statistics to illustrate the magnitude and depth of the youth unemployment crisis, including the fact that nearly 40 per cent, or some 74 million, of the unemployed were between 15 and 24 years of age. Many more were not captured in unemployment statistics because they had dropped out of training and/or had ceased searching for work. Young people trapped in jobs in the informal economy compounded the challenging situation. Member States had served the United Nations system with mandates to tackle the youth employment crisis and to provide young men and women with opportunities for decent and productive work. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had placed importance on promoting decent work for youth, including in its proposal to the General Assembly on targets that aimed to capture the improvement in the quantity and quality of jobs (see A/68/970, goal 4, target 4.4, and goal 8, targets 8.5, 8.6 and 8.b). ILO foresaw that the initiative of the Committee on decent jobs for youth could contribute to the future implementation of the sustainable development goals.

58. The lead on the initiative, the Director of the Employment Policy Department of ILO, Azita Berar Awad, introduced the terms of reference and a paper setting out the proposed key elements of the initiative. She emphasized that the Committee was considering an ambitious agenda that sought to respond to a fast-evolving challenge where expectations from Member States were high. The initiative was proposed to

take current efforts to address youth unemployment to a higher level of ambition, with an emphasis on scaling up action and on knowledge dissemination and capacity-building on what worked for youth employment. She cited a wealth of existing analyses, mandates and platforms to drive the work forward. She invited the views of the Committee on whether the initiative should be characterized as “joint” or “global,” noting that, were it confirmed that broader stakeholder engagement was in fact desired, then “global” would be more suitable.

59. In the paper containing the key elements, 12 principles to guide the development of the initiative were presented. They were based on the extensive collective experience of the United Nations system in promoting employment and implementing programmes for young people. The initiative comprised four interconnected pillars, namely a strategic, multi-stakeholder group; expanded and scaled-up country-level action on decent jobs for youth; a global knowledge management platform on decent jobs for youth; and a funding facility. She emphasized the importance of engaging, on a regular and permanent basis, actors from outside the United Nations system, including youth representatives, in all four pillars.

60. The Committee voiced broad support for the terms of reference and welcomed the paper. Members observed that the subject was very relevant and that Member States were clearly looking to the United Nations system to assist in stimulating employment opportunities for youth. The core group was commended for the work that it had completed to date. The emphasis on normative-operational linkages was appreciated, along with the clarity of the application of the five key elements of the post-2015 development agenda. The representatives of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and UN-Habitat expressed interest in their organizations joining the task team to contribute to the development of the proposal.

61. During the discussion, several speakers commented on large global trends that affected youth employment, such as jobless growth, demographic trends, labour mobility, the positive and negative impacts of technology on the employment market, the lack of investment in youth, and trade and macroeconomic policies that precluded sound national youth policies. Several observed that sustained, distributed growth was fundamental to the post-2015 agenda in its entirety. It was therefore necessary for the task team to take into consideration long-term structural issues, given that the youth employment challenge should not be seen in isolation from the need for broader employment creation across all age groups. At the same time, some speakers noted that special attention needed to be paid to children under 18 years of age, both in terms of education (leading to employability) and child labour (a matter of child rights). The Committee, however, was also reminded of the risk that normative frameworks could be undermined when different standards were applied — either by creating a category of junior rights for those over 18 years of age or undercutting standards for those under 18 years of age.

62. Members expressed support for the draft terms of reference and proposed minor changes. Several stressed the need to articulate better the linkages with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth and other actors or initiatives, such as the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the Youth Employment

Network and the World Bank Group initiative on solutions for youth employment, and to clarify the terms of reference accordingly. On the guiding principles identified in the terms of reference, observations were made regarding the importance of placing youth employment in the larger context of sustainable development, especially in terms of national development priorities and plans; removing ambiguity about what was meant by complementarity and coherence between public policy and the private sector; and linking the initiative to broader investment in youth.

63. On the key elements of the initiative, members urged the task team to ensure that the initiative was action-oriented and focused, stressing that it needed to have a genuine impact on youth employment. The importance of the entities of the United Nations system working together in integrated programmes on youth employment was acknowledged; however, it was said that the strategy would benefit from further elaboration on the added value that the United Nations system brought in that field, especially taking into consideration the various factors affecting youth employment that were beyond the control of United Nations entities. Given that reality, there was strong support for the initiative being global in nature, recognizing that it was essential to go beyond the actors of the United Nations system and include the private sector (with the appropriate corporate social responsibility policies and safeguards) and Governments (including local authorities). The Committee also firmly reinforced the importance of engaging youth in the initiative, including in any team that would support its work.

64. The point was made that it would be important to ensure that the initiative would facilitate and empower the work of others, not attempt too much coordination or restriction of actors. The Committee agreed that the partnership mechanism needed to be flexible and nimble. In that respect, it was suggested that the need for a formal executive secretariat should be carefully reconsidered. Further elaboration on the rationale for an approach that included resource mobilization was requested, as was consideration of whether a global facility might have an impact on other financing streams in the system. The need for baseline data on youth was raised, in part in order to monitor the results achieved by the initiative on decent jobs for youth. The annual youth forum convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council was seen as a possible venue for intergovernmental feedback on the initiative.

65. The need for an inclusive approach was stressed, with particular attention paid to marginalized youth (e.g. orphans, the homeless, those living with HIV/AIDS and young women or girls). Encouraging entrepreneurship or self-employment and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises were seen as important activities to be addressed by the initiative. Job-creating engines, such as technology hubs and innovation labs or centres, were highlighted as a part of the solution for youth employment in both developed and developing countries. The need to acknowledge labour mobility and the potential for supporting regional and subregional labour markets was highlighted. Efforts to promote green and decent jobs (including in the tourism sector) and to provide related education and skills-building for youth (e.g. through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, involving five agencies of the United Nations system in 30 countries) could also be scaled up to support countries in the transition to resource-efficient, equitable, low-carbon development pathways. It was suggested that promoting public sector employment opportunities for youth and youth volunteerism should be incorporated into the initiative. It was

also suggested that the risks of youth unemployment, which included crime and violence, should be highlighted, along with the potential costs of not addressing those challenges.

66. In several interventions the possibility was raised of piloting the initiative at the country level, especially in the least-developed countries and in fragile States that could benefit most from additional support. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East offered to facilitate a pilot/test case with the aim of applying the approach to the broader Middle East, observing that, the high literacy and education rates and good health notwithstanding, unemployment and poverty were rising among Palestinian refugees.

67. In her final remarks to the Committee, Ms. Berar Awad acknowledged the array of comments and suggestions offered by members and elaborated on points raised during the discussion. She noted some of the activities that would be undertaken by the task team as it continued to develop the proposal, including the mapping of existing partnerships and identifying how to engage them through the umbrella of the multi-stakeholder group, the identification of effective champions and the deepening of thought on thematic areas of work (e.g. green jobs and the digital economy).

68. In concluding the session, the Vice-Chair confirmed that revisions would be made to the terms of reference in the light of the comments made. They would be recirculated electronically to the Committee for approval before being presented to CEB at its first regular session of 2015. She stated that the task team, including any new members that wished to join, would further develop the initiative and present a draft to the Committee at its thirtieth session or, if practicable, earlier through electronic distribution, in view of the need to work swiftly and effectively to deliver on the initiative and the stated desire of the Secretary-General to demonstrate action in that area of work.

Conclusion

69. **The Committee approved the terms of reference of the task team on the global initiative on decent jobs for youth, as set out in annex III to the present report, subject to the incorporation of comments made during the session, for endorsement by CEB at its first regular session of 2015.**

VI. Agenda item 5: summary of information items

70. Before the current session, the Committee had received, via electronic mail, the information notes described below for its review and endorsement on a non-objection basis. No objection had been received. The Committee was thus invited to take note of the reports, which provided updates on progress achieved since its twenty-eighth session.

A. Climate change

71. The information note prepared by the Committee Working Group on Climate Change provided an overview of the status of implementation of the work programme of the Working Group for the period 2014-2015.

B. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

72. The information note prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States outlined the efforts under way in the preparation of a set of proposals relating to a system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action.

C. UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans

73. Information notes prepared by UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans offered progress updates on the recent activities of the three inter-agency coordination bodies.

Conclusion

74. The Committee took note of the information notes and expressed thanks to the organizations for their updates.

VII. Agenda item 6: dates and venue of the thirtieth session of the Committee

75. Members had been informed of the Chair's proposal to hold the thirtieth session of the Committee at United Nations Headquarters on 12 and 13 October 2015.

Conclusion

76. The Committee confirmed that its thirtieth session would be held on 12 and 13 October 2015 at United Nations Headquarters.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Urbanization and sustainable development.
2. Inequality, human rights and the post-2015 development agenda.
3. Data revolution.
4. Youth employment.
5. Summary of information items:
 - (a) Climate change;
 - (b) Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;
 - (c) UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Oceans.
6. Dates and venue of the thirtieth session of the Committee.

Annex II

List of participants

Chair: Achim Steiner (United Nations Environment Programme)

Vice-Chair: Jane Stewart (International Labour Organization)

Secretary: Kayoko Gotoh

United Nations

Executive Office of the Secretary-General	Paul Akiwumi
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Thomas Gass
	Navid Hanif
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Gwi-Yeop Son
	Marion Biermans
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Craig Mokhiber
	Sally-Anne Way
Regional commissions	Amr Nour
International Labour Organization	Azita Berar-Awad
	André Bogui
	Ana Teresa Romero
	Casper Edmonds
	Rafael Diez de Medina
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Sharon Brennen-Haylock
	Raquel Santos Garcia
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores
	Jean-Yves Le Saux
World Health Organization	Shambhu Acharya
	Ivana Milovanovic
World Bank Group	Dominique Bichara
International Monetary Fund	Axel Bertuch-Samuels
International Telecommunication Union	Mario Castro Grande
	Susan Teltscher
	Susan Schorr

World Meteorological Organization	Elena Manaenkova
	Christian Blondin
International Maritime Organization	Jesper Loldrup
World Intellectual Property Organization	Naresh Prasad
	Joe Bradley
	Enayet Mowla
	Victor Owade
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Luis Jiménez-McInnis
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Sarwar Hobohm
	Kazuki Kitaoka
International Atomic Energy Agency	Margit Bruck-Friedrich
World Trade Organization	Said El Achimi
World Tourism Organization	Marcio Favilla
	Zoritsa Urosevic
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Adnan Issa
	Anida Yupari
United Nations Development Programme	Magdy Martinez-Soliman
	Paul Ladd
United Nations Environment Programme	Corli Pretorius
	Maaïke Jansen
	Claudia ten Have
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Arafat Jamal
	Annika Sjöberg
	Tarek Abou Shanab
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Robert Hurt
United Nations Children's Fund	Marilena Viviani
United Nations Population Fund	Farah Usmani
World Food Programme	Arif Husain
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	Gillian Murray

United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza
	Yamina Djacta
United Nations System Staff College	Maria Hutchinson
	Patrick van Weerelt
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	Monique Middelhoff
Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth	Saskia Schellekens
CEB secretariat	Simona Petrova
	Remo Lalli
	Ken Herman
	Cheryl Stafford

Annex III

Time-bound task team on the global initiative on decent jobs for youth

Terms of reference

A. Scope and objectives

1. In October 2014, at its twenty-eighth session, the High-level Committee on Programmes discussed decent jobs for youth, along with the urban agenda, as an issue deserving the priority attention of the Committee and selected it as a prototype platform for applying the five key elements of the post-2015 agenda identified by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and supporting "fit-for purpose" efforts by mobilizing the capacity of the United Nations system and operationalizing the establishment of issue-based partnerships.

2. The task team is a time-bound inter-agency mechanism under the Committee. It is established to develop a global initiative on decent jobs for youth and to support the Committee in responding to issues of strategic concern to the United Nations system.

3. The issue-based initiative on decent jobs for youth will aim to foster system-wide cooperation; strengthen policy coherence and coordination; mobilize and engage external partners; and enhance linkages between normative and operational aspects of United Nations efforts in the service of improved programming and delivery.

4. Over recent years, there have been several inter-agency undertakings on youth employment, at both the international and national levels, including through the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on youth by the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and joint programming and implementation of youth employment interventions by United Nations country teams. The initiative will build on those interventions and capitalize on existing platforms, lessons learned, good practices and tools, with a view to expanding action in response to the youth employment challenge, in particular at the country level. More specifically, the initiative will aim:

(a) To use the convening authority of United Nations agencies to engage stakeholders and decision makers to shape policies, implementation and funding to ensure action on youth employment at both the global and country levels;

(b) To scale up context-specific action at the country level for systematic and coherent operations of the United Nations and other stakeholders on youth employment and for additional financial and human resources;

(c) To improve knowledge development and sharing of what works for youth employment, including tools and strategies, within and beyond the United Nations system.

A pillar on mobilization of resources, including the establishment of a funding facility, could be considered under the initiative.

5. The initiative will also serve as:

- (a) A platform to share information, tools, strategies, knowledge and lessons learned;
- (b) A forum to practically apply the five elements of the post-2015 development agenda and mobilize and deploy collective United Nations capacity;
- (c) A prototype of an issue-based multi-stakeholder partnership.

6. The task team will focus the initiative on promoting decent jobs and investing in youth as a key part of efforts to pursue longer-term sustainable development and will ensure that the initiative:

- (a) Adopts a multidimensional and multisectoral approach for expanding opportunities for decent jobs for young people;
- (b) Is grounded in rights-based and normative frameworks of the United Nations;
- (c) Prioritizes young women in targeting approaches and mainstreams gender equality commitments and practices, ensuring that both young men and women can benefit from investments in their employability and entrepreneurship;
- (d) Recognizes the heterogeneity of youth and the need to promote targeted approaches;
- (e) Addresses supply-side and demand-side measures (e.g. by stimulating labour demand, skills for employability, targeted labour market interventions, self-employment and entrepreneurship);
- (f) Focuses on the quality, quantity and types of jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth;
- (g) Promotes access to enabling factors such as productive resources (including land), finance, and technology for youth;
- (h) Pays specific attention to linking social protection initiatives that increase investment in education and skills for youth and transition to work initiatives;
- (i) Combines immediate action with long-term policy interventions;
- (j) Pursues active engagement of and partnerships with the private sector and complementarity and coherence between public policies and private sector investment in promoting decent jobs for youth;
- (k) Facilitates the involvement of young people in relevant policy and planning discussions by pursuing active engagement with youth organizations in both rural and urban areas;
- (l) Emphasizes impact at the country level and pursues regional perspectives where appropriate;
- (m) Builds on existing networks and platforms;
- (n) Expands multi-stakeholder partnerships.

7. To develop the strategy the task team will:
 - (a) Analyse the issue, including by:
 - (i) Mapping innovative and creative work in the area of youth employment in both rural and urban contexts;
 - (ii) Identifying gaps to be filled by the initiative;
 - (iii) Reviewing the priority assigned to youth employment in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and in the work of United Nations country teams;
 - (b) Submit a proposal with recommendations based on the above-mentioned analysis, for a global initiative on decent jobs for youth to the the Committee for approval and for consideration and endorsement by CEB.

B. Modalities of work

8. The task team is chaired by the International Labour Organization. Its core members are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank Group and (ex officio) the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth. Participation in the task team is open to all members of the Committee.
9. Participation in the work of the task team is encouraged to be at the level of the individuals who represent their organizations on the Committee (normally the level of Director or above), with the support of technical staff.
10. In developing the initiative, the task team will consult and solicit input from representatives of United Nations country teams, representatives of the world of work, the main international youth organizations and other actors engaged in the development and implementation of youth employment interventions.

C. Main deliverables and timeline

11. Terms of reference to be immediately prepared, reviewed by the task team and submitted for approval to the Committee at its twenty-ninth session, in March 2015, and for subsequent consideration by CEB at its first regular session of 2015.
12. Between January and April 2015, the task team will map innovative and creative work relating to the objectives outlined above and identify possible external partners.
13. The task team will produce a background paper on key elements of the draft strategy for discussion by the Committee at its meeting in March 2015.

14. Subsequent to the Committee meeting, a retreat of the task team will be convened to develop the proposed strategy further.
15. A revised and expanded version of the strategy will be completed by the end of July 2015.
16. The proposal on the initiative will be submitted for consideration by the Committee at its thirtieth session, in October 2015, and for subsequent endorsement by CEB at its second regular session of 2015.
17. The work of the task team will be completed by the end of 2015, once the initiative is launched by December 2015, assuming that the Committee and CEB approve it at their session in the third quarter of 2015.